

WOMAN ATTACKS STEVENS'S ALIBI

Places Henry in New Brunswick Night of Murder

(Continued from Page 3)

sion spectators who have followed the case closely marveled at the manner in which little Jimmie Mills, drab janitor mate of the slain choir singer, upon whom the defense yesterday tried to pin the blame for the murders, cleverly understood the ordeal of a searching cross-examination.

Mills laughed when Robert H. McCarter, defense chief, began that course of questioning. He laughed outright at the pompous dean of Jersey's bar, and he smiles today at every reference to his testimony yesterday.

Sexton Bests Lawyer

For two of the three hours McCarter hammered away at Jimmie. The lawyer attacked his alibi of the murder night and, failing to trip up the witness, tried by inference and innuendo to discredit Mills's story.

For the first time in four years, Mills proved himself a canny and injured person. His story was perfect. He and Simpson understood each other like a well-rehearsed actor and his prompter.

"I don't remember. I cannot recall. I might have said that—it has slipped my recollection," said Mills on the few times he floundered beyond his depth and parried with McCarter until Simpson rescued him.

Parries Questioner

McCarter tried along three different lines to lift suspicion from his clients and point evidence of the murders toward Mills.

He showed that Jimmie carried a cobbler's knife. He sought to prove that Mills had read the love letters a few days before the murders. He attempted to gain an admission from Mills that he had quarreled with his wife at supper the night she was slain.

While McCarter, his lower lip thrust forward, boomed at Mills, the little man smiled contemptuously. He betrayed no emotion at the recurring mention of his wife's name.

Willie Interested

Willie Stevens was intensely interested as Mills talked. Mrs. Hall and Henry Stevens exchanged whispered comments as their lawyer assailed the witness. Later, leaving the stand, Mills brushed Henry as he walked to his seat in the witness section.

The three defendants glanced up at Mills. They turned to watch him walk up the aisle. Aside from a cold stare at Mrs. Hall he gave them no recognition.

After establishing the fact that for two years before the murder he and his wife had occupied separate bedrooms, McCarter began his effort to place Mills in a murderer's role.

Carried Cobbler's Knife

Q. You are by trade a shoemaker? A. Yes, for twenty years. Q. Did you have a kit of tools? A. I just carried a knife and stone.

Q. Your employers moved, so you quit shoemaking? A. I quit before the concern moved to Brooklyn.

Q. You still did some work as a shoemaker, still carried the knife? A. Yes, I still carried the knife.

Tardiness Annoyed Wife

Bringing Mills to the night of the murder and seeking to establish a motive, McCarter asked:

Q. You got home late for supper? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your wife was annoyed at your being late? A. Yes, sir.

Q. You had a few words about it? A. No, sir, we did not have no few words about it.

Q. What happened? A. She said, "You're late for supper." I said, "Well, I can't help it."

Saw Letters in Coat

Simpson objected when McCarter, reminding Mills of his testi-

Murder Witness



ALMEDA HARKINS, one of the state's witnesses, who says she was in the vicinity of the Phillips farm on the night the rector and his choir singer met their deaths.

mony before the first grand jury and reading stenographic notes from an interview the defense claims Mills had with Ellis Parker, a private detective, queried:—

Q. A few days before the murder you saw some letters in her coat, didn't you? A. I did.

Q. You saw enough of those letters to see that they contained "dear" and "honey," didn't you? "If they are trying to show Mills was guilty of this murder," Simpson challenged, "and want to examine him on the letters, I object, for I asked him nothing about those letters in my direct examination."

"Didn't Pay No Attention"

After McCarter had tried to reframe the question in several ways, Mills volunteered:—

"I didn't pay no attention to the letters. My wife was always writing things like that, which she'd copy from books, keep a while and then throw them away."

McCarter made much of Mills's admission that during the two days his wife had been missing before the bodies were found Mills made no effort to find out what had detained her.

Q. When your wife went out and

you asked her where she was going and she said "follow me," you had no curiosity about it? A. No.

Q. What time did you go to the church that night? A. About 11 o'clock.

Q. Your wife wasn't home yet? A. No, sir.

Q. She was usually home about 10 o'clock, wasn't she? A. Yes.

Q. Next morning came. Your wife hadn't come home? A. No.

Q. You went to work as usual? A. Yes, sir.

Made No Inquiries

Q. You didn't make an inquiry at the police station or hospitals? A. No, sir.

Q. You hadn't made any inquiries at your wife's relatives in New Brunswick? A. No.

Q. You went home, went to bed Friday night and went to the church Saturday? A. Yes.

McCarter read from a record Mills comment to Mrs. Hall:—

Hint of Elopement

"Do you think they have eloped?" which Mills asked Friday when the slain rector's wife told him her husband had not come home the night before.

Q. So from Thursday until Saturday you asked no one but Mrs. Hall about your missing wife? A. Yes, sir; I went to my mother and asked her Saturday.

Got \$500 for Letters

Mills admitted he had received \$500 from a New York newspaper for the sale of some letters between his wife and Dr. Hall.

Simpson got a laugh when he asked his witness in reference to a visit Detective Ellis Parker paid to the Mills home:—

"Isn't Ellis Parker the greatest detective in Mount Holly?"

When Mills agreed, Simpson startled the spectators with the query:—

"Did you know that he was a friend of Henry Stevens?"

Assails Stevens Alibi

After Mills had been dismissed, Simpson called Mrs. Mary Demarest, a worker in Dr. Hall's church, to the stand. The witness, leaning heavily on a cane as the result of

injuries in a recent automobile accident, was helped into court by two detectives.

Mrs. Demarest told of having seen Henry Stevens in New Brunswick the Friday afternoon after the murder. Yes, she was positive it was Henry, although she had not seen him in several years.

"I was getting off a trolley car," Mrs. Demarest told the court, "when I noticed a man seated at the wheel of an automobile that had halted behind the car. He was alone in the machine."

"That man was Henry Stevens."

Mrs. Demarest, under cross-examination by Senator Case, said her first thought at the time was that the automobile driver was Willie. She was impressed, because she knew Willie personally, and knew that he did not drive a car.

Asked to tell the age of Henry Stevens, whom she claims to have remembered since childhood, Mrs. Demarest could only say:—

"Well, he's older than I."

Arthur S. Vanderveer, official photographer at the first investigation, testified that from where Mrs. Jane Gibson said she gazed upon the murder party it was impossible, because of dense foliage, to see the crabapple tree, under which were found the bodies of the slain rector and choir singer.

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